



STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Tri-State Education Initiative Fact Sheet

Under the leadership of NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center, a national demonstration program-the Tri-State Education Initiative (TSEI)-was implemented in 1991. The TSEI is a cooperative effort between NASA and state, local and other federal agencies to work toward accomplishment of the National Education Goals.

The TSEI encompasses an area within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of luka, Miss., which includes parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. The initiative advocates total community involvement in the education system and programs that are appropriate for people of all age groups.

The Tri-State Education Consortium is an association of 30 school districts, kindergarten through grade 12, in the three states organized to work cooperatively to enhance and broaden the capabilities of their respective education systems within the tri-state area. Representation on the consortium and its nine-member executive board is provided by each of the 30 superintendents. The TSEI currently serves 232 schools, 5,600 teachers, 102,000 students and a population of 550,000 local residents.

Over 2,500 teachers have received approximately 200,000 educational materials through the TSEI's NASA Teacher Resource Center, and over 2,000 educators have participated in training activities at the TriState Learning Center.

The following designations have been made for the TSEI:

1. Only GOALS 2000 region in the nation as designated by the U.S. Secretary of Education.
2. One of 27 sites in the nation to use "real time" weather receiving systems for curriculum/instruction.
3. One of seven sites in the nation selected by the U.S. Department of Education for Staff Development in Science.
4. Selected by the Southeastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE) as a "one-of-a-kind" program in the nation for education excellence in education reform.
5. A national site for satellite imagery curriculum development for K-12.

One priority of NASA's TSEI is to facilitate technology for training and economic development. Therefore, the TSEI has provided Geographic Information System seminars in the TSEI region to over 1,000 participants. Additional training is ongoing for economic developers, community leaders, governmental officials and community colleges this year.

Another facet of the TSEI's mission is to provide information and training to the above named persons on technology utilization/transfer and federal procurement procedures. Stennis Space Center and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., are coordinating these activities in the TSEI region.

Additional training opportunities have been provided through the use of interactive video. An example includes conferences on total quality learning for educators, telemedicine for health care providers, classroom instruction for students as taught by instructors in Japan, and legal instruction through a dialogue between barristers from London, England, and lawyers with the American Bar Association of the TSEI region.

For additional information about the Tri-State Education Initiative, contact NASA's TSEI program manager, Dr. David Powe, by writing to P.O. Box 508, Hattiesburg, MS 38852-0508, or by calling (601) 423-7452.

NASA

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